

# Wing Tips

**108th Air Refueling Wing  
New Jersey Air National Guard  
June 2003 Volume 3 Issue 6**



## Medic Challenge '03

By Capt. Stephen P. Baffic, BSC, PA-C  
108th Medical Squadron

"We have an inbound in-flight emergency" was the message received by the 108th Medical Squadron's medical control center on the evening of May 21st. The medical control center sprang into action and the MDS prepared for the worst. It wasn't an actual IFE, but part of Medic Challenge '03, an exercise that capped off a week of medical readiness training that took place May 17-22 at the 108th MDS.



The week included both lectures and hands-on training. A number of sections throughout the wing supported the training. The 108th Civil Engineer Squadron's

Disaster Preparedness section provided Chemical Warfare Refresher Training now known as Battle Axe Training. Wing Safety and Intel briefed squadron personnel in preparation for the exercise. Wing Combat Training Team members provided exercise evaluation and guidance. The mass casualty exercise had 24 wing members volunteer to be patients. In addition, the New Jersey ChalleNGe Youth Program provided 14 volunteer cadets as patients.

The entire exercise proved to be valuable and realistic training for squadron members. The Medical Squadron personnel did an outstanding job in handling the scenario. A total of 38 "casualties" were triaged and received initial treatment in less than 30 minutes. Tech. Sgt. Maria Hamlin, a squadron member, stated, "I had to remind myself it was an exercise and not a real incident."

The support of the 108th ARW and N.J. ChalleNGe Youth proved to be invaluable, as the successful exercise would not have been possible without their help.



## A fun time for all at Family Day

By Senior Airman Zakia Ray  
Wing Tips Staff Writer

It's that time of year again! Family Day 2003 will be 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. July 20 at Doughboy Field, Fort Dix. A commander's Call at 9:30 a.m. in Hangar 3333 will precede the day's festivities. All members of the 108th Air Refueling Wing are encouraged to attend with family and friends. 170th/108th retirees are also invited.

"For the most part, Family Day is designed with the children in mind. This is a great opportunity for unit members to bring their kids and spouses out to meet other Guard families, in a relaxed and fun-filled atmosphere," said Master Sgt. Lou Kiesling, event coordinator.

A wide variety of food, games, activities and contests are scheduled. Last year's Family Day featured pie eating contests for children and adults, costumed characters, face painting, apple bobbing, volleyball and assorted entertainment.

Guests are reminded to park in authorized areas only. In previous years, a soccer game has taken place at the same time of the picnic, resulting in fewer available parking spaces. However, this year, the 108th will have exclusive use of the area. Kiesling noted that, consequently, "this year will be better than ever."

Many volunteers are still needed to fulfill tasks ranging from the food serving line to trash detail, and assisting Family Readiness. To volunteer, call 609-754-3058. Volunteers are assigned shifts and will also have the opportunity to participate in the day's festivities.

All guests who do not have a military, retiree or dependent identification card must be placed on a list to gain entrance to Ft. Dix. Individuals, with the exception of children under 18-years-old, will need a photo ID. All vehicles must have current insurance and registration.

**Recruiting & Retention is Job 1**

# Boom Box

The following members of the 108th were honored recently and received the Team/Partnership Achievement Award for being part of the Design and Construction Team for the Homeland Security Center of Excellence.

Maj. Paul E. Novello  
Chief Master Sgt. John K. Tiger  
Senior Master Sgt. Juan F. Prieto  
Master Sgt. James L. Boykins  
Master Sgt. Timothy J. Grover  
Master Sgt. Peter Marottoli  
Master Sgt. John R. Miller  
Master Sgt. Robert J. Morton  
Master Sgt. William A. Price  
Master Sgt. Marie M. Reavis  
Master Sgt. Edward M. Semeta  
Master Sgt. David J. Visconi  
Tech. Sgt. Joseph P. Bonfonti  
Tech. Sgt. Joseph T. Hammell  
Tech. Sgt. Roberto Oquendo  
Tech. Sgt. Thomas R. Pettit  
Tech. Sgt. Cleave V. Reid  
Tech. Sgt. Dante F. Rosini  
Tech. Sgt. Lewis A. Williams  
Staff Sgt. Brian J. Belk  
Staff Sgt. Edgar C. Coumes  
Staff Sgt. Stewart E. Duncan  
Staff Sgt.. Nehemie L. Juleus  
Staff Sgt. Joseph A. Landree  
Staff Sgt. Edward A. McGhee  
Staff Sgt. Louis C. Rettenberg  
Staff Sgt. Matthew C. Scudder  
Staff Sgt. Daniel L. Salcfas  
Staff Sgt. Joseph J. Starr  
Senior Airman Daniel M. Baldwin  
Senior Airman Eric A. Balint  
Senior Airman Timothy W. Delaney  
Senior Airman Shannon M. King  
Senior Airman Ann M. McKenzie  
Senior Airman Christopher D. Vanrell

## Safe driving Web site

Driving Safety - To help you determine your driving safety knowledge level and to learn more about driving safety, please visit the following Web site: [www.safe-drivingtest.com](http://www.safe-drivingtest.com) -- 108th Safety Office.

*Congratulations to Master Sgt. Donald S. Withers who has been named Federal Employee for the 3rd Quarter for the Department of Military of Veterans Affairs.*



Congratulations to Tech. Sgt. Edward K. Williams III who was sworn in as a Recruit Fire Fighter for the Fire Department of Jersey City on April 30 during a ceremony on the front steps of Jersey City's City Hall. The ceremony honored the families of deployed troops and welcomed home troops from deployments.

The National Guard Association of New Jersey's Scholarship Committee recently announced the names of the nine annual scholarship winners. Each recipient will receive \$1,000.

Congratulations to Staff Sgt. Keith D. Atwell, an Aviation Resource Manager in the 108th Ops, who is attending college, majoring in cardiovascular perfusion technology. A resident of N.J., Atwell was one of eight people of the more than 400 applicants accepted into that program.

A round of applause to Priscilla H. Monico, daughter of Tech. Sgt. Robert Monico of the 108th Contracting section. Priscilla, another scholarship winner, will be continuing her education majoring in political science. She was also the valedictorian of her senior class and a member of the National Honor Society.



Lt. Col Robert Doolittle (right) is presented the Bronze Star by Maj. Gen. Clark Martin, commander of the New Jersey Air National Guard during the wing's awards ceremony in April.

## Condolences



Retired Col. (Dr.) Aldo Baldi, former 108th Medical Squadron Commander, passed away on June 1. "Doc" is survived by his wife, Marilyn, four children and numerous grandchildren. Two of his three sons, Maj. Michael Baldi and Lt. Alex Baldi, are 108th members.

If you wish to make a donation in "Doc's" name, the family has suggested the following organizations:

**Pancreatic Cancer Action Network**  
(PanCAN), 2221 Rosecrans Ave.,  
Suite 131, El Segundo CA 90245  
877-2-PanCAN

or

**Riverview Foundation**  
1 Riverview Plaza, Red Bank NJ 07701

or

**Saint Mary's Church**  
Rt. 34 & Phalanx Rd., Colts Neck NJ 07722

# Odds and Ends

## What's happening

### June

June 21 – Summer begins

June 21- Bring A Buddy Day, building 3390, auditorium, 9 a.m.

### July

July 4 – Independence Day

July 19 – ANG author book signing, NJANG Heritage Center, 11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

July 20 – Family Day, Ft. Dix Doughboy Field, 10:30 a.m.

## FirstGov.gov Web site provides ways to support U.S. troops

While the general public is urged not to send unsolicited mail, care packages or donations to U.S. troops overseas, those wanting to show their support can go to [www.FirstGov.gov](http://www.FirstGov.gov) to send a greeting.

FirstGov.gov, the government's official Web portal, lists various online government services that help Americans offer support to service members. Individuals can send a message to the troops, sign a general card of support or even buy a much-needed phone card so the troops have an easy way to call their loved ones at home.

These services are featured on the FirstGov.gov home page under the heading, "Help Our Troops and the USA."

FirstGov.gov can show individuals how to reach out to military families in their community, send virtual greetings and thanks, or donate calling cards.

FirstGov.gov connects citizens to more than 22,000 federal websites and all state government portals as well. Visitors to the site can obtain information, find out about government services and transact business directly online. FirstGov.gov is managed by the General Services Administration, Office of Citizen Services.

## Senate legislation would lower retirement age

Sen. Jon Corzine, D-N.J., has introduced a bill to reduce the retirement age for members of the National Guard from 60 to 55. S. 1035 would allow Guardsman currently between the ages of 55 to 59 to retire with full benefits and restore parity between the retirement system for federal civilian employees and reservists who are currently eligible for retirement at 55. The Corzine bill mirrors legislation introduced in the House by Rep. Jim Saxton, R-N.J. Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., Sen. Thad Cochran, R-Miss., and Blanche Lincoln, D-Ark. are original cosponsors of the bill.

## Base pool has opened

The Base Pool located on Falcon Courts North across the street from the Youth Center, building 3830, McGuire AFB, has opened. Hours of operation effective now through **June 27** are:

Monday through Friday, 4-6 p.m.

Saturday and Sunday, 12-6 p.m.

**June 27 through Sept. 1:**

Sunday through Tuesday, 12-8 p.m.

Wednesday, 12-6 p.m.

Thursday through Saturday, 12-8 p.m.

Get an ATWIND game piece when you use the pool on Mondays.

Call 609-754-6032 for information.

## Wing Tips deadlines

The deadline for July *Wing Tips* is July 7. Articles/photos should be emailed to: [pa.108arw@njmcgu.af.mil](mailto:pa.108arw@njmcgu.af.mil).

When submitting digital photos, please ensure they are a minimum of 400 dpi. All articles must be in Word format.

Deadline for August *Wing Tips* is July 30, September *Wing Tips* is Aug. 27 and October *Wing Tips* is Oct. 8.

## Car wash at building 3369

The Logistics Squadron will host a car wash during the June UTA at building 3369 from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., both Saturday and Sunday.

It will take place in the side parking lot facing the circle. All donations will be accepted. Refreshments – hot dogs, chips and sodas – will be served while your vehicle is being washed.

All funds donated will go toward wing functions. Get a clean car while supporting the wing!

## Vacancy announcement

A vacancy exists for the State Command Chief Master Sergeant of the New Jersey Air National Guard. Any duty-related questions can be addressed to the NJANG Command Chief Master Sgt. at 609-562-0912, or DSN: 944-0912.

Interested applicants can find more information about the position by reading ANGI 36-2109 and ANGI 36-2101. Completed application packages must be submitted to: Commander, New Jersey Air National Guard, 3650 Saylors Pond Road, Fort Dix, NJ 08640-7600, to arrive no later than close of business on July 21, 2003.



# Wing Vacancies

Here are the vacancies throughout the wing and the number of openings available.

## Operations Group

Medical Tech – 2  
Admin Asst – 2  
Flight Records – 1  
Boom Operator - 2, (1) full time  
Airfield Manager -1  
Intelligence Tech – 1  
*Officers*  
Pilot – 4  
Intel Officer – 1

## Logistics Group

Crew Chief – 33  
Fuels Tech – 4  
Supply Mgmt – 5  
Vehicle Maint Tech – 5  
Contracting Spec – 2  
Admin Asst – 3  
MOCC Controller – 4  
Engine Mgmt Tech – 3  
Plans & Programs Tech – 1  
Propulsion Tech – 1

Aircraft Ground Equip Spec – 12  
Machinist/Welder – 4  
Sheet Metal Tech – 11  
Guidance & Control Tech – 14  
Comm/Nav Tech – 4  
Fuel Systems Tech – 7  
Hydraulic Tech – 7  
*Officers*  
Maint officer – 1

## Support Group

Ground Comm Radio Spec – 1  
Personnel Spec – 3  
Security Forces Spec – 15  
Power Production Tech – 2  
Liquid Fuels Tech – 2  
Environmental (Entomologist) – 1  
Readiness Tech – 1  
Weather Forecaster/Observer – 4  
*Officers*  
Weather Forecaster – 1

## Medical Squadron

Public Health Tech – 1  
Medical Supply Tech – 2  
Bio-Med Equip Repair Tech – 1  
Bioenvironmental Tech – 1  
Dietary Tech – 1  
Cardio Lab Tech – 1  
Medical Tech – 1  
Lab Tech – 1  
Optometry Tech – 1  
Dental Tech – 1  
*Officers*  
Flight Surgeon – 2  
Aero-Med Spec – 1  
Public Health – 1  
Bio-Med Lab – 1  
Pharmacist – 1  
Optometrist – 1  
Dentist – 1

## Wing Staff

Public Affairs Spec – 2  
*Officers*  
Chaplain (Catholic) – 1

## Wing-wide training hours available UTA Sundays

As of Jan.1 all units are afforded the opportunity to conduct In-House Training from 1-4 p.m. every Sunday of the UTAs. Please have members check with their Unit Deployment Manager, Ancillary Training Monitor, supervisors and/or commanders for scheduled training location and instructors for their sections. CCTV schedule of broadcasts are available in the UTA Bulletin. All broadcasts are on Channel 8.

## Wing Tips on 3 Web sites

*Wing Tips* is now accessible to retirees, unit members and the public on three different Web sites.

It will be placed on the following public Web sites – <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/mcguireairguardians> and <http://www.108arw.ang.af.mil>.

Unit members will also find it on the members-only Web site at <https://108mbr.ang.af.mil>.

Printed color copies will be distributed to buildings 3305, 3306, 3324, 3333, 3369, 3390 and 1818.

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# What's wrong with me?

By Chaplain (Maj.) Thomas Klaasen

Not being promoted is hard on one's ego! Lots of questions swirl around in one's mind like pesky gnats, stinging, irritating, and driving one to distraction. "Why did this happen to me?" "Why wasn't I selected?" "Why was so and so promoted, and not me?" "What's wrong with me?"

Along with the questions, our emotions naturally well up, and they brim over in unexpected, and sometimes inappropriate ways. We struggle with our hurt feelings. Even though others want to show support and sympathy, if we act out too much, we get on the nerves of those around us.

How should supervisors respond to these questions? One could answer in a hard-nosed, face the facts, way, "Just do your job and you will be promoted!" Or, one could respond in a more compassionate way, "It was a tough choice. We only had so many slots available. I really hope you can be promoted later." Those not promoted need to hear something that will help them through this difficult time.

The question, "What's wrong with me?" is asked and answered by all religious traditions. A whole series of important questions lie just below the surface of this question. For example, "Why am I not the person I want to be?" Or, "Why do bad things keep happening to me?" Or, "Why can't I shake these bad feelings about

myself?" Or, "Why is my life so hard, when others don't seem to struggle at all?" Or, the ultimate question, "Why does God let these things happen to me?"

We all face disappointments. Every single person in our wing at some time or another has not gotten something we really wanted. Anytime we move into an area of uncertainty, difficulty, or stress, we learn something important. Perhaps the most important thing we learn is that we're not self-sufficient. We need a community of support. Ultimately, we need God. Sometimes we get stuck and our question gnaws at our soul, "What's wrong with me?" We all hope that a friend will come alongside to help us sort out some answers. Thank God for the hundreds of 108th ARW members who are that kind of a friend!

## Chaplain's Corner



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## Go online to order pins for your parents

Parents of active duty, Guard or Reserve airmen can display their pride with a new lapel pin the Air Force is distributing under the AF Parent Program, launched May 5.

Parents will receive personalized letters from AF Secretary James Roche and Chief of Staff Gen. John Jumper, along with a blue lapel pin displaying the AF symbol with a "P" cradled between the wings.

Military personnel can log onto [www.yourguardiansoffreedom.com](http://www.yourguardiansoffreedom.com) to order pins for their parents or parental figures.

## Have your employer recognized by ESGR during Bosslift

NJESGR (New Jersey Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve) Bosslift is scheduled for July 30-31, 2003. Traditional Guard members who would like their civilian employer to be recognized by NJESGR during this event should contact the 108th Public Affairs Officer, Maj. Denise Waggoner, at 609-754-4173 for more information. Deadline for nomination form submission is June 22, 2003.

## Food for Thought



From the desk of  
Maj. Jacqueline Veasey

### What is the purpose for the 90-Day Health Improvement Period (HIP)?

This Weight and Body Fat Management Program (WBFMP) phase (IAW ANI 40-502) is established to assist members in making gradual, but permanent, exercise and dietary lifestyle changes. Unit commanders, or designated representative, will refer members identified as exceeding Air Force body fat standards to the Health Promotion Manager to receive information/resources referencing exercise and dietary awareness. The purpose of this stage is to help members identified as being over body fat standards to attain a behavior change in exercise and dietary habits.

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### Lifestyle Changes

An active lifestyle contributes to lower cholesterol levels and better health. In fact, extensive research has shown that when people alter their lifestyle to reduce the risk of heart disease, they lead healthier lives. Here are some tips for changing your lifestyle that can help:

Start a diet plan, which includes foods that are low in fat. Lean meats cooked with little added fat, fish, and low-fat milk are just a few of the delicious foods that can help contribute to a healthy lifestyle.

The American Heart Association recommends 30 to 60 minutes of aerobic exercise a day to help reduce the risk of a heart attack. Check with your doctor before beginning any exercise program.

If you smoke, you have to decide that now is the time for you to quit. Smoking speeds the development heart disease. As soon as you stop smoking, your risk of heart attack lessens. In order to stress the fitness goals of the WBFMP, unit commanders may request a temporary six-month deferral for individuals in a stop smoking program. Approval authority for this deferral is the 108ARW/CV in accordance with advice from the 108th Medical Squadron WBFMP/Fitness Officer.

# Commander's Column

By Col. Larry Thomas  
108th Air Refueling Wing Commander

The last of the "main body" of our troops arrived home the end of May from "an undisclosed location in the North Atlantic." We still have a few unit members deployed around the globe. Our deployments in support of Operations *Iraqi Freedom* and *Enduring Freedom* were highly successful. Once again, the 108th Air Refueling Wing has fulfilled its long-established legacy as a unit that knows how to "make it happen" to fulfill our mission taskings.

Our total numbers were: 2,628 flying hours/593 sorties for Operation *Noble Eagle*, and 5,291 flying hours/919 sorties for Operations *Iraqi/Enduring Freedom*.

So, what's next?

The Air Expeditionary Force Center has announced that there will be two special AEF cycles. These two "buckets" will allow for the reconstitution of our forces and the re-start of the "standard" AEF cycles.

Although we do not know when we will actually demobilize, I do expect a

partial demobilization to occur sometime later this summer.

I have asked the group commanders to make an initial determination to find out who among our members will want to demobilize versus those who prefer to remain on active duty. I am committed to making this next demobilization as orderly and smooth a process as possible.

With an aging fleet of tankers, the recent Air Force announcement regarding leasing 767 refuelers is welcome news. These aircraft are vital to the future Air Force tanker fleet and will free up KC-135R models for trickle down to Air National Guard units such as ours.

I am very proud to be your commander. The attitude, "can-do" spirit and dedication to duty of the men and women of the 108th is inspiring. Please continue to focus on the mission, and always keep safety at the forefront of everything you do. I am hopeful that our lives and the unit tasking for the wing will return to some degree of "normalcy" in the not too distant future.

## Volunteers needed for Vineland vets picnic

Have you ever been to the Warren Grove Range? Well this could be your chance – volunteer for the picnic being held there for the Vineland veterans on June 26. A bus will leave the parking lot of building 3333 at 8:45 a.m. and will return at approximately 3:30 p.m.

The rain date for the picnic is July 10. If you are interested in volunteering, call 609-754-6867.



Students from Bergen County Technical Education Center, Paramus, N.J., recently donated spring baskets and yellow ribbons to to the 108th Family Readiness Center.

## NJNG Youth Camp, July 6-12

New Jersey National Guard Youth Camp 2003 will be held in Sea Girt, N.J., July 6-12.

Children, grandchildren and legal dependents of active, former or retired National Guard members are eligible to attend. Children must be 9-12 years old. Cost is \$100 per child.

Activities include sports, camping, arts and crafts, swimming and archery. There are special programs on drug and alcohol awareness, child safety, and health and fitness group awards.

Volunteers are also needed for counselors (18 and above), junior counselors (15-17), activities and staff support.

Visit [www.state.nj.us/military/familysupport/youth\\_camp.html](http://www.state.nj.us/military/familysupport/youth_camp.html) for more information.

## New mandatory travel, split disbursement policy

DoD has directed that the new mandatory travel voucher and split disbursement policy be implemented immediately.

This requires:

- 1) The member's supervisor or approving official must sign the voucher before it is sent to the Finance office for processing. This signature indicates travel was taken as identified on the voucher and that split disbursement is indicated for the entire balance of the Government Travel Card account, not only the lodging, rental vehicle and airfare.
- 2) Supervisors/Approving officials are directed to return to the member any vouchers that do not have travel card charges properly split out for disbursement to the bank.

Accordingly, effective June 1, 2003, any travel voucher submitted to the 108th Finance office must meet the requirement for split disbursement (entire Government Travel Card balance) and supervisory signature as specified in Public Law 107-314 (2003 National Defense Authorization Act as enacted in 10 USC 2784a). Unfortunately, those vouchers not meeting the requirements will be returned without processing.

The 108th Finance office will publish a "how to" tip sheet shortly to amplify on potential tools and procedures for both members and supervisory personnel. For further information, please contact the Travel Pay Section at 609-754-4141.

In an effort to avoid potential processing delays, we are requiring a travel technician review ALL travel vouchers prior to submittal.

## Thought from the MEO folks -

We could learn a lot from crayons:  
some are sharp, some are pretty,  
some are dull, some have weird names,  
and all are different colors....but  
they all exist very nicely in the same box.

- Anonymous



# Wondering Photographer by Senior Airman Qianna Snooks

Beyond Buddy Day, what suggestions do you have for recruiting new members?

Senior Airman John D. Beaton -

204th Weather Flt.



They need to market and advertise to a new generation. They're marketing to the past. They need to focus on people with an education and people with a need. Focus on the benefits and really

show that they're available. We need to get our young troops out to these schools. How is a 35-year-old going to appeal to teenagers? It's all about advertising and marketing.

Senior Airman Kimberly S. Bersch-  
Disaster Preparedness



Definitely talking to students at college campuses. Because of the educational benefits, it's a major pull. The educational benefits are a magnet

to the Guard.

Master Sgt. Darlene M. Bouffard -  
Logistics Squadron



Get out to your community and the schools. I know with my family, I have to get them involved. It's important to get your children interested. Being in the Guard, I know just stressing it with family members and hoping

your children will one day want to follow in your shoes.

Senior Airman Dale A. Brown -  
Communications and Navigation



Recruiting at middle schools and giving them a sense of direction, so that once they get older, they may still want to come in to the military. Because at that age, they need some structure, ideas and

focus on what to look forward to in the future.

Staff Sgt. Robert J. Fishman-  
Maintenance



Just let them know about things that you have to offer. I can tell you two things right now. The chow hall's excellent and you can get your patches and tags sewn on your uniforms for free. And

the facilities here on base are really good and close.

Tech. Sgt. Darrell S. King -  
Operations Support Flight



Create an Internet program with some sort of game scenario at the beginning. Since most of the people that we're targeting in that age-range are Internet savvy. It would attract more people if we had a game or activity like

that and followed it saying that this is what the 108th is all about.

## Front and Center

**Name:** Donald A. Woods

**Rank:** Staff Sergeant **Age:** 26

**Rime in Service:** Five years in the U.S. Marine Corps and two years in the Air National Guard

**Job in the 108th:** Aircraft Maintenance Scheduling

**Civilian job:** He's a full-time student majoring in television production/broadcasting.

**Family:** We're all from the Trenton area.

**Favorite food:** Stuffed cabbage; it's a Hungarian recipe.

**Favorite movie:** Final Destination

**Favorite actor:** Sean Connery

**Favorite TV show:** Smack Down

**Favorite author:** Tom Clancy

**Favorite music genre:** House Music

**Favorite sport:** Ice Hockey

**What I do in my spare time or my hobbies:** I always have a video camera in my hand; videography and editing video; and theme parks. I love riding on roller coasters.

**Person I most look up to or admire:** Staff Sgt. Karl Franklin in the Marine Corps because he taught me how to be a Marine.

**My dream vacation is:** to tour Europe

**My dream car is:** Dodge Viper GTS

**My goal is:** to get my degree in television and to work in a television studio.

**Words I live by:** You get more bees with honey than you do with vinegar.

**Pet Peeves:** Hypocrites; people who say one thing and do another.

**What I like most about the 108th ARW:** Tuition assistance; tuition assistance is invaluable.

**If I was commander for the day I would:** Organize a unit-wide trip somewhere for a couple days; we've got the planes for it. And I'd give the civilians a couple of days off.



# Satellite NCO Academy a success - 113 graduates to date

By Senior Airman Zakia Ray  
Wing Tips Staff Writer

Ten members of the 108th Air Refueling Wing recently made the leap that paves the way for promotion to master sergeant. Graduates of McGuire Air Force Base Satellite NCO Academy marched across stage May 16 at the completion of their second level of professional military education. They were: Tech. Sgts. Anthony Collazo; James Dolcy; David Falkowski; Denise Green; Robert Hansen; Valerie Rahn; Vincent Randolph; Donald Rhodes; Jeffrey Redrup; and Janal Thomas. Tech. Sgts. David Diaz, 177th Fighter Wing; and Kevin Hatten, 514th Mission Support Squadron, were also graduates of this class.

Tech. Sgts. Lisa Ameigh, Benjamin Barnes, Billy Butler, Daniel Johnson and Timothy Lannon were forced to withdraw once called to active duty in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Rahn was honored as Distinguished Graduate.

"We began with 17 students and lost five whom were called to active duty," said Senior Master Sgt. Shawn Jones, lead instructor. "All of our students should be commended for their dedication and commitment to such a rigorous program."

Jones, and Master Sgt. Donald Newlin, have seen 113 students through the course, as instructors with the program from the beginning.

McGuire Air Force Base became the benchmark for satellite NCO Academy programs with its inception in 1995. A satellite program affords Air National Guard members the opportunity to attend the school, without going away for six weeks. Students attend class twice weekly, 6 to 10 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays, for approximately four months. Home station training is followed by two weeks of in-residence training at McGhee-Tyson Air National Guard Base, Tenn.

The purpose of NCO Academy training is to provide leadership skills, communications skills and profession of arms knowledge to enhance a student's ability as an NCO.

Ameigh had a teddy bear represent her in class after her departure. The bear also made the trek to McGhee-Tyson, complete with dog tags, and walked across stage to



receive an honorary certificate. Ameigh had the opportunity to view the pseudo graduate stand in for her as the graduation was broadcast via satellite to the distance learning classroom.

Anyone interested in a copy of the tape may contact 108th Visual Information at 609-754-5817.

The NCO Academy is looking for instructors. To meet university academic standards, instructors must have a two-year or higher college degree and must be a graduate of the in-residence NCO Academy. For more information, call 609-754-4020, or 609-754-6080.

The next class begins August 26.

## New chaplain joins 108th

Chaplain Maj. James "Jim" VandeLune was sworn into the New Jersey Air National Guard June 2.

VandeLune is ordained, and endorsed, by the Christian Reformed Church. VandeLune served 17 years in the Air Force Reserves, with his most recent assignment at the 305th Air Mobility Wing. Formerly enlisted, he also spent seven years as an Air Force air traffic controller.

Our new chaplain is excited about getting to know the men and women of the 108th and being part of "a stable, high-commitment team with a defined flying

mission." He sees the continuity, experience, and the unit structure, as unique strengths. "I hope we, as chaplains and staff, can facilitate the continuation of these outstanding accomplishments and also be a catalyst for healthy spiritual growth."

VandeLune and his wife, have three children, and four grandchildren.



## New hours at IEU section

The Individual Equipment section hours of operation changed June 16. The new hours are Mon.-Thurs., 10 a.m.- 4p.m. and Fridays from 10 a.m.- 3 p.m. The change is due to the morning work load and also to accommodate the night shift. UTA weekend hours are from 9 a.m.- 3 p.m. on Saturday and 9 a.m.- 12 p.m. on Sunday. If you have questions, please call 609-754-4313.



## Two airmen convicted of financial crimes, including misuse of the govt. travel card

OSAN AIR BASE, South Korea (AFPN) – Two airmen have been convicted of various financial crimes during separate general courts-martial here.

Master Sgt. Clarence Lott pleaded guilty to, and was convicted of, submitting a false official document, larceny of housing allowances in excess of \$500 and obstruction of justice. The sergeant, from the 51st Maintenance Group, had 19 years and 9 months of service at the time of trial.

Lott submitted a false housing-allowance form to finance officials in which he claimed his dependents resided in San Francisco, when in fact they lived in Arizona. Prosecutors showed he stole about \$19,000 in excess allowances by misrepresenting the location of his dependents.

After realizing his larceny was about to be discovered, he obstructed justice by contacting a senior airman he had previously supervised and asking the airman to provide false information to investigators.

Lott specifically asked the airman to provide a false address in San Francisco and to obtain false information from the airman's sister, who lived there, to mislead investigators. Instead, the airman promptly reported Lott's request to authorities.

Capt. Matt Jarreau and Evelyn Frasure represented the Air Force, and Capt. Melanie Keiper defended Lott. The senior noncommissioned officer elected to have his case tried by a military judge alone.

The judge was Col. David Brash from Yokota Air Base, Japan. He found Lott guilty of all three crimes and sentenced him to a bad-conduct discharge and reduction to senior airman. His discharge will be executed once the appellate process is complete. A bad-conduct discharge punitively removes the offender from the Air Force without any retirement benefits or pay.

In another court-martial here, Airman 1st Class Francisco Lira III, from the 51st Communications Squadron, pleaded guilty to writing about \$7,200 worth of bad checks and misusing his government travel card.

Lira defrauded the Osan Enlisted Club, the Gateway Enlisted Club, and the Army and Air Force Exchange Service by writing 59 worthless checks during many months. The Air Force has been recovering the bad check money from the offender by involuntary allotments of his military pay. The airman also repeatedly used his government travel card for unofficial, personal purposes and then did not pay the \$4,200 debt.

Maj. Jennifer Whittier and Frasure prosecuted the case, and Keiper served as defense counsel. Lira chose to be tried by military judge alone. Brash found the airman guilty of the all charges and sentenced him to reduction to airman basic, confinement for four months and a bad-conduct discharge. Lira was immediately transferred to the Army confinement facility at nearby Camp Humphreys.

## Wing to undergo late summer reorganization

By Senior Airman Qianna Snooks

August 2003, the 108th Air Refueling Wing is scheduled to implement the Air National Guard's Combat Wing Organization Programming Plan.

More simply put, a logistics review by the Chief of Staff of the Air Force resulted in five primary initiatives to better utilize expeditionary capabilities and standardize operations across the Air Force, and now it's the 108th's turn to put them into effect.

The standardized operations that were approved include: 1) The creation of a Logistics Readiness Officer career field, 2) the assignment of all aircraft and space maintenance personnel currently assigned to Operations and Logistics Groups to Maintenance Groups, 3) the merger of Supply and Transportation Squadrons into Logistics Readiness Squadrons, 4) the placement of Logistics Plans into the LRS, and 5) the placement of the LRS, Contracting Squadrons and Aerial Port Squadrons/Flights into the existing Support Group, which will take on the name "Mission Support Group."

According to the plan, the CSAF vision is to better enable our groups to focus on the essential core capabilities, which will in turn improve our combat capabilities.

## VA produces brochure on Reservists benefits

The Veterans Administration (VA), in collaboration with the Department of Defense, has developed a brief but comprehensive brochure to describe benefits and health services for Reserve and National Guard members. The pamphlet provides an overview of VA health care, disability benefits, education and training, vocational rehabilitation and employment assistance, VA life insurance, home loan guaranty, and burial benefits, and lists several key toll-free numbers and Web sites for more information. Visit the Web site at <http://www.va.gov/enviroagents/docs/SVABENEFITS.pdf> for more information.

## 108th ARW, 177th FW named Vineland's Group of the Year at annual volunteer luncheon

The Vineland Veterans Memorial Home held its annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon on May 1 to recognize all the individuals and groups that volunteered their time at the home this past year. The 108th ARW and the 177th FW were honored as the Group of the Year. Representing the 108th were Master Sgts. Steve Sabato and Hank Pierre.

The Adjutant General, Brig. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth, had many good things to say about the Air Guard, as did the Volunteer Coordinator from the home. Both wings were presented with a plaque as well as a proclamation from the State Assembly, presented by Assemblyman Jeff VanDrew.

# *Simple steps to reduce the risk of identity theft*

By Lt. Col. Edward N. Ramras  
Staff Judge Advocate

Identity theft, where a crook uses your social security number to obtain credit cards and other identity documents in your name, is one of the fastest growing crimes in America. In order to reduce the risk of identity theft, you should consider taking some of the following actions.

The next time you order checks have only your initials (instead of your full first name) and last name printed on them. If someone steals your checkbook they will not know if you sign your checks with just your initials or your first name (which they won't know) but your bank will know how you sign your checks.

When you are writing checks to pay on your credit card accounts, DO NOT put the complete account number on the "For" line. Instead, just put the last four numbers. The credit card company knows the rest of the number and anyone who might be handling your check as it passes through all the check processing channels won't have access to it.

Never have your social security number printed on your checks. If a store

insists on putting your SSN on a check, complain loud and long. Some states use SSNs as your driver's license number, but will let you use an alternative number if you insist.

Invest in a shredder for your home. Use it to dispose of the "convenience checks" your credit card companies send you, applications for credit cards you don't need or want, old cards, credit card bills you've already paid, extra deposit slips from your check pads, credit card receipts that have your full account number printed on them, and anything else that a dumpster diving identity thief could use to take control of your accounts.

Periodically, place the financial contents of your wallet (credit cards, licenses, insurance cards, etc.) on a photocopy machine and copy both sides of each license, credit card, etc. That way, you will know what you had in your wallet and will have all of the account numbers and phone numbers to call to cancel the cards in case your wallet is lost or stolen. Keep the photocopy in a safe place.

In case your wallet is stolen, cancel your credit cards immediately. If you made a photocopy of the fronts and backs of your

credit cards, you'll have the toll free numbers and your card numbers handy so you know whom to call. Although Federal law limits your liability to \$50 per card if you report the loss in a timely manner, the sooner you let them know, the better. File a police report immediately in the jurisdiction where it was stolen. This proves to credit providers you were diligent, and is a first step towards an investigation (if there ever is one).

The most important thing to do if your wallet is lost or stolen is to call the three national credit reporting organizations immediately to place a fraud alert on your name and Social Security number. The alert means any company that checks your credit knows your information was stolen and they have to contact you by phone to authorize new credit. Even if your wallet hasn't been lost or stolen, you can order current copies of your credit reports for a nominal charge.

The credit bureaus' numbers are: Equifax: 1-800-525-6285, Experian (formerly TRW): 1-888-397-3742, and Trans Union: 1-800-680-7289.

If you have any questions, please give the 108th ARW Legal office a call at 609-754-3940.

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